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Letters from Mr. Everett and Mr. Felt, accepting their appointment to a place in the Society, were communicated.

The subject of sorting the books and pamphlets, &c., was postponed till the Committee on procuring a more suitable room for the Society shall report.

Mr. SAVAGE, from the Committee respecting an exchange of volumes, reported, which report was recommended to the same Committee.

Voted, That the Standing Committee be directed to make a nomination of Resident Members at the next meeting.

Meeting dissolved.*

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1831.

At a meeting of the Society, Jan. 27, 1831, — the members present were, Bowdoin, Davis, I. P. Davis, Hale, Harris, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Palfrey, Pierce, Ripley, and R. Webster.

Transactions of the last meeting read.

The Standing Committee of the Society reported a nomination of four persons; viz., Hon. Lemuel Shaw, James T. Austin, Rev. Benjamin B. Wisner, and Convers Francis, as Resident Members.

Communications of correspondence and donations by the Corresponding Secretary.

* Elisha Clap, of Boston, chosen a member in October, 1812, died Oct. 22, 1830. A notice of him by Hon. James M. Robbins will be found in this volume on pp. 438-440. — Eds.

Rev. Henry Channing, of New London, was nominated a Corresponding Member by the President.

A copy of a letter from Oliver Cromwell to John Cotton, received from Hon. John C. Smith, and communicated by the Corresponding Secretary, was referred to the Publishing Committee.*

Voted, That the list of the donations and of the members elected the last year, be published in the "Daily Advertiser."

A circular letter from the Rhode Island Historical Society, communicated by the Corresponding Secretary, was committed to Hon. Edward Everett.

Meeting dissolved.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1831.

At a meeting of the Society, April 28, 1831, — the members present were, President, Recording Secretary, Bowdoin, Coffin, Pierce, and Savage.

Transactions of the last meeting read.

Mr. MERRILL and Mr. SNELLING were appointed the committee on the Treasurer's accounts.

The President communicated the intention of Jonathan Phillips, Esq., to present to the Society a portrait of Mr. Prince, the annalist. Whereupon,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Phillips.

Voted, That the Massachusetts Historical Society do hereby discharge any lien which they may have upon the real estate of which

* Probably a copy of the letter printed in Hutchinson's Collection of Papers, p. 236, the original of which was sold, in 1854, in London, for thirty-six guineas, and is now in the possession of Mr. James Lenox, of New York. — Eds.

Christopher Gore, Esq., late of Waltham, died seized, situate upon Boston Neck, in the city of Boston, for payment of the legacy given to the said corporation by the will of said deceased.*

Voted, That the Librarian be requested to obtain return of the two volumes borrowed from the Library, July 5, 1816, — viz., *Bibliotheca Americana* and Kennett's *American Library*, — for the late Isaiah Thomas, Esq.†

Voted, To postpone the choice of officers to the adjourned meeting.

Meeting adjourned to May 5th.

[Two Resident Members died since the last annual meeting, — Elisha Clap and Isaiah Thomas, — neither of whom has been commemorated in the Society's volumes. Their memoirs here follow. — Eds.]

Notice of Elisha Clap.

Mr. Elisha Clap was born in Dorchester, June 25, 1776, the son of Lemuel and Rebecca Clap, the latter being the daughter of Rev. Samuel Dexter, of Dedham, whose descendants for five generations have been among the most honored citizens of Massachusetts. Lemuel Clap was the captain of one of the Dorchester companies enlisted in 1775 in the Continental service, and assisted at the fortification of Dorchester Heights, 1776, and afterward served at Noddle's Island. Elisha was the third of five sons of his parents, and early

* Governor Gore bequeathed to the Society two thousand dollars, subject to the life interest of his wife; and the discharge here given was at the request of Mr. N. I. Bowditch, in a letter on file, in order to facilitate the settlement of the estate. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and also Harvard College, were beneficiaries of Governor Gore's bounty. — Eds.

† Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, chosen a member in April, 1811, died April 4, 1831. A notice of him by Mr. George Dexter will be found in this volume on pp. 440-444. Of the two volumes which Mr. Thomas had borrowed of the Society, the first, by J. Homer (see Society's Catalogue, I. 607), was soon after, in this year, returned to the Library. The ownership of the second (Catalogue, I. 668), was for a time contested, but it was returned to the Society in January, 1836, "full proof having been given of its belonging to the Library." — Eds.

manifested a great fondness for books, which circumstance doubtless induced his father to direct his studies to a preparation for a college education, and he was admitted at Harvard College in 1793. He pursued his collegiate course with much credit, in a class which contained Horace Binney, John C. Warren, Daniel A. White, and Professor Stearns. Upon receiving his degree, he was appointed by the College government Greek Tutor, which office he continued to fill for two years. He then devoted himself to a preparation for the ministry, preached for a short time, and was invited to settle at Fitchburg; but, before accepting this opportunity, a new career opened itself to him, which became his occupation to the end of his life. In the year 1804, several gentlemen in the county of Barnstable obtained from the Legislature a charter and an endowment for an academy at Sandwich; and the recommendation of Mr. Clap's qualifications as a classical teacher, from his Cambridge friends, produced an invitation to him to fill the place of Principal at the new institution. He accepted the appointment, and commenced his duties at Sandwich in 1804, and continued a successful course in that place for twelve years, fitting many pupils for the University, and giving a character to the school which attracted scholars from the different parts of the State. After a twelve years' service at Sandwich, he was induced by the solicitation of gentlemen acquainted with his reputation to resign his situation, and devote himself to the education of their sons in Boston; and, about 1816, he opened a private school there. He continued to pursue his calling successfully for more than ten years, until his labors were suspended by the loss of health, which occasioned several visits to the South, but he never recovered his wonted condition. He married Miss Mary Paine, the eldest daughter of Robert Treat Paine, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, with whom he spent happily the last five years of his life, which terminated Oct. 22, 1830. His personal history, from the nature

of his profession, contains but little variety. He was fond of scientific studies, devoted much time to astronomy, and early became a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences. His fondness for historical researches occasioned his election to the Historical Society in 1812, and he continued an attentive and useful member for eighteen years. J. M. R.

Memoir of Isaiah Thomas.

The second edition of the "History of Printing in America," published by the American Antiquarian Society, in 1874, is prefaced by an admirable memoir of its author, prepared by his distinguished grandson, Judge Benjamin Franklin Thomas. The editors of this present publication had confidently expected that their learned associate would furnish for these Proceedings a condensation of that memoir. Alas! that the hand of the Great Destroyer, Death, has transferred that task to a less worthy pen! I shall attempt nothing but a summary of Judge Thomas's biography.

Isaiah Thomas, the youngest son of Moses and Fidelity (Grant) Thomas, was born in Boston, Jan. 19, 1749, old style. His father was through life a rolling stone, and, true to the proverb, "gathered no moss." His death, after a career that embraced the varied and successive occupations of soldier, mariner, trader, farmer, and schoolmaster, left his widow with five children, destitute of worldly goods. Two elder children, born during the parents' residence on Long Island, were kindly adopted by relatives of the mother living in Hampstead. The three younger, born after the return to Boston, were placed by their mother in the near neighborhood of the city, while she earned their and her own support by keeping a small shop. Isaiah was brought back to the city at the early age of six, and placed with a printer, Zachariah Fowle, who promised to care for him as his own child. If he ever went to school, it must have been before he was

bound apprentice to Fowle, which event took place about a year after he went to live with him, June 4, 1756. Mr. Fowle seems to have been an indolent, indifferent man, totally devoid of energy. Whatever assistance Isaiah obtained in learning his trade came probably from Samuel Draper, who was Fowle's partner from 1758 to 1761. After the partnership was dissolved, the boy, only twelve years of age, had the principal charge of the business of the office.

He remained in Fowle's service for ten or eleven years, and grew to be considered an able and experienced workman. In 1766, he had a serious misunderstanding with his master, so serious that it resulted in his leaving Boston secretly. He made his way as far as Halifax, in the hope of reaching England. But in Halifax he found himself without the means of going further, and was forced to seek employment. He fell into the hands of one Anthony Henry, the publisher of the "Halifax Gazette," and government printer. Henry, like his first master, Fowle, was easy and indolent, and soon left the management of the business to the apprentice. He, filled with the spirit of resistance to oppression learned in New England, speedily brought the newspaper into trouble with the authorities by articles in opposition to the Stamp Act; and Mr. Henry found that he must choose between the government work and his new apprentice. Of course, he preferred the first; and, there being no other chance of work in Nova Scotia, Thomas was forced to turn his steps homeward. He found work on one of the newspapers in Portsmouth, where the vessel landed him, until Mr. Fowle, learning his return to New England, invited him to resume his place in Boston.

This arrangement was soon terminated by fresh quarrels, and the master and his apprentice parted again. Thomas went to North Carolina, where he hoped to establish a press in Wilmington. But difficulties in coming to an agreement with the printer already resident there put an end to this scheme, and Thomas went on to Charleston, where he found

employment with Robert Wells, who published the "South Carolina and American General Gazette," and also kept a book store. While in Charleston, Thomas married Mary Dill, daughter of Joseph Dill, of the Bermuda Islands, a connection that was not happy, resulting in a separation after a few years. The marriage took place in December, 1769; and, in the following spring, Mr. Thomas returned to Boston. Here he entered into partnership with his old master, Fowle; and, in July, the first number of the "Massachusetts Spy" appeared. The paper was intended to circulate among the mechanics and smaller tradesmen of the town, and was issued at first three times a week. At the end of three months, Thomas bought out Fowle, and the issue of the newspaper was made semi-weekly. The following spring another change was made, and the "Spy" was enlarged, and appeared weekly. The newspaper, owing to the energy and ability of its printer and editor, and to the kind aid he received from contributors, was quite successful. It adopted the Whig cause, and did no small service in the struggle between the Government and the friends of freedom. Attempts were made by Governor Hutchinson at first to bring the paper over to the side of Government, then to suppress it, and punish its printer for libel. He soon became a noted and trusted friend of the American leaders. About this time, Mr. Thomas also began the publication of a magazine, "The Royal American Magazine," and started a series of almanacs, "Thomas's New England Almanacs," the publication of which was continued by his son until 1819.

In 1775, Mr. Thomas sent his family to Watertown for safety, and held himself in readiness to leave Boston at short notice. Two days before the affair at Lexington, the notice came, and the press and types were hurriedly removed to Worcester, one of the places in which he had been asked to settle. The printer himself remained, and acted his part in the events of the night of the 18th and the day of the 19th

of April. He reached his new home, Worcester, late on the 20th, and the publication of the "Spy" was resumed May 3. It was an entirely new beginning in life: all was lost, except the small amount of materials that had been transferred to Worcester. The Provincial Government gave what help it could, sending him supplies of paper, and giving him the public printing, until the arrival of the Halls from Salem and the escape of Edes from Boston gave the Congress ample facilities nearer home. The system of post-riders, established about this time, gave Mr. Thomas also the office of postmaster at Worcester, which he continued to hold for some years.

For some little time his career was uncertain. He leased a part of his presses and the "Spy" to William Stearns and Daniel Bigelow in 1776, and with the remainder attempted to establish a business in Salem, but failed. The next year he again leased the newspaper to Antony Haswall. His family, during these years, were living on a small farm in Londonderry, New Hampshire, and his biographer confesses his inability to discover in what way he was employed. He managed in some honest way, however, to support the family, thanks to his indomitable energy and perseverance.

Mr. Thomas returned to Worcester in the spring of 1778, and took possession of the "Spy" again. His progress was slow but steady from this time. After the close of the war, the improvement was more rapid. The newspaper increased its circulation, was enlarged to five columns on a page, and the business of printing and publishing books was begun. Mr. Thomas advocated earnestly the adoption of the Federal Constitution; and the settlement of the government upon a firm foundation gave an impulse to all business. His success was now assured. He built a large mill, where he made his own paper, published books, established a bindery, and extended his business all over the country. At one time there were under his control and that of his partners five book-stores in Massachusetts, one in New Hampshire, one in

Albany, and one in Baltimore. In 1788, he established a house in Boston, taking as a partner Mr. Ebenezer T. Andrews. The firm did a large and profitable business, publishing, among other books, the "Massachusetts Magazine," from 1789 to 1793.

In 1802, Mr. Thomas resigned the care of his business to his son, Isaiah Thomas, Jr. His own time was devoted to study and collection of materials for his great work, the "History of Printing in America." This appeared in 1810, in two volumes, octavo. Not long afterward, in January, 1812, he began to develop his plan for making his own library, a large and valuable one, the basis of a public collection. From this grew the idea of the American Antiquarian Society, of which he was the founder and liberal benefactor. The charter of this Society was granted in October, 1812, and the Society organized on November 19th. Mr. Thomas was chosen the first President, and annually re-elected during his life. In 1820, he built Antiquarian Hall, to which his library was transferred. His gifts did not cease with his life. By his will, funds were left for the support of a Librarian, and for other purposes of the Society. His entire gifts to the Society reached the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Thomas held no official position. But his services to his country and to literature were recognized by elections into many learned societies, and by honors conferred by colleges. He received the degree of Master of Arts from Dartmouth College, and that of Doctor of Laws from Alleghany College, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His election to our own Society dates from April 25, 1811.

Mr. Thomas died in Worcester, April 4, 1831, at the ripe old age of eighty-one.

G. D.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

At an adjourned meeting, May 5, 1831, — the members present were, Davis, I. P. Davis, A. H. Everett, Hale, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Pierce, Ripley, Savage, Shattuck, R. Webster, and Willard.

The transactions of the last meeting were read.

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts made the following report, viz. : —

The undersigned, a Committee of the Historical Society, appointed to examine the accounts of James Savage, Treasurer of said Society, have this day performed the service, and report that the accounts are well kept, properly vouched, and correctly cast, whereby a balance in favor of the Society appears in his hands, of eighty-five dollars and thirty-six cents, including two notes of seventy-seven dollars and seventy-four cents, which were exhibited to us.*

(Signed)

JAMES C. MERRILL.

N. G. SNELLING.

The officers of the last year were re-elected.

Voted, That the letter from Dr. Mease to the Librarian, respecting the printed document sent by him to the Society to be returned if not used, be referred to the Publishing Committee.†

Voted, That the box of minerals presented by Mr. Alonzo Lewis be referred to the Publishing Committee and the Cabinet-Keeper, to take such notice of it in the next volume of the Collections as they may deem proper.

* The receipts for the year amounted to \$278.10, of which \$116.10 were for sales of publications, and \$162 for assessments and admission fees. The payments amounted to \$261.65, of which sum \$240 were on account of printing the Collections. — Eds.

† The printed document referred to was probably Dr. Mease's paper on Medals, published in 3 Collections, IV. 297. — Eds.

The vocabulary of the words in the Quoddy language, presented by the Corresponding Secretary, was referred to the Publishing Committee.*

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Henry Sargent, Esq., for his valuable aid in restoring the picture of Cortez belonging to the Society, and presented by the family of the late Dr. Foster, of Brighton.

HON. LEMUEL SHAW, JAMES T. AUSTIN, REV. BENJAMIN B. WISNER, and CONVERS FRANCIS were elected Resident Members, and REV. HENRY CHANNING, of New London, a Corresponding Member. MR. MERRILL and MR. I. P. DAVIS, the Scrutinizing Committee.

John H. Farnham, Esq., of Salem, Indiana, was nominated a Corresponding Member by Mr. Ripley.

John Allyn, D.D., resigned his place in the Society, and it was

Voted, That his resignation be accepted, and that the assessments due from him be remitted.

Mr. Pickering's resignation was accepted.

Mr. Shattuck and Mr. Coffin were allowed to take from the Library three volumes of newspapers each at a time.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Society, Aug. 30, 1831, — the members present were, Davis, Francis, Gardner, Holmes, Jenks, Lowell, Ripley, Savage, R. Webster, and Willard.

* Written by the Rev. Elijah Kellogg, and published in 3 Collections, III 181. — Eds.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Erastus Smith, of Windsor, for his valuable donation of the "Narrative of the Planting of the Massachusetts Colony, A.D. 1628, published by Old Planters," &c.*

A question respecting the property of "Bibliotheca Americana" and Bishop Kennett's "American Library" having arisen,

Voted, That the subject be referred to the Librarian and Cabinet-Keeper, to report at the next meeting.

A proposition from the Librarian to exchange certain books for books and manuscripts in the Library, was referred to the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to report at the next meeting.

JOHN HAY FARNHAM, Esq., of Salem, Indiana, was elected a Corresponding Member. Mr. RIPLEY and Mr. WILLARD, the Scrutinizing Committee.

Mr. John F. Watson, of Philadelphia, was nominated a Corresponding Member by the President, and Mr. James Dean, formerly of the University of Vermont, by Mr. R. Webster.

On motion of the Recording Secretary,

Voted, That the Standing Committee be requested to select a suitable person to deliver a discourse before the Society on the 22d of February next, that time being the completion of a century from the birth of Washington.

Meeting dissolved.

* This book, now rare in the original edition of 1694, was reprinted in 4 Collections, IV. 279-332. The Society came into possession of another copy in the Belknap donation of March, 1858, for notice of which see Proceedings under that date. The author, Joshua Scottow, wrote another book, entitled, "Old Men's Tears for their own Declentions," &c., 1691, of which an account is given in a notice of the author by Mr. Savage, in 2 Collections, IV. 100-104. A copy, with title-page and the first fourteen pages complete, is in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society. — Eds.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

At a meeting of the Historical Society, Oct. 26, 1831, — the members present were, Bowdoin, Coffin, Coolidge, Davis, I. P. Davis, F. C. Gray, Harris, Jenks, Lowell, Merrill, Quincy, Ripley, Savage, Wallcut, R. Webster, Willard, Winthrop, and Worcester.

The transactions of the last meeting were read.

A communication was made of donations to the Society.

Voted, That the President present the thanks of the Society to Jonathan Phillips, Esq., for his valuable donation of a portrait of Rev. Thomas Prince to the Society.

Charles Fraser, Esq., of Charleston, South Carolina, was nominated a Corresponding Member by Lieutenant-Governor Winthrop.

Mr. JOHN F. WATSON, of Philadelphia,* and Mr. JAMES DEAN, formerly of the University of Vermont, were elected Corresponding Members. Mr. WILLARD and Mr. I. P. DAVIS, the Scrutinizing Committee.

The Standing Committee not having obtained a quorum at the time appointed for their meeting on the subject of the last vote at the meeting of the Society in August, the subject was referred back to the Society.

Voted, That a special committee be appointed to take into consideration this subject, and make the necessary arrangements.

The President, Mr. LOWELL, and Mr. SAVAGE were appointed.

* Mr. Watson's letter of acceptance, which was filled with historical anecdotes and reminiscences, was published in the Proceedings in 1861, in connection with a notice of Mr. Watson himself, who died Dec. 23, 1860. — Eds.

Hon. John Welles, of Boston, Rev. Charles W. Upham, of Salem, William Lincoln, Esq., of Worcester, and Hon. H. A. S. Dearborn were nominated Resident Members by the Standing Committee.

Voted, That the Librarian and Treasurer be a committee to procure a reprint of the ninth volume, second series.

Voted, That the Committee for the publication of the next volume be instructed to proceed as fast as possible in this matter, and report at the next meeting on the progress they have made.

The Committee on the subject of the proprietorship of "Bibliotheca Americana" reported; whereupon,

Voted, That the same Committee take such measures as they may deem proper for procuring the return of the volume in question.

The Committee to whom was referred the proposal of the Librarian for an exchange of books, reported, —

That the books offered by the Librarian in exchange for those which he mentions belonging to the Library of the Society are all of them valuable, and would be an acquisition to the Society; and that the odd volumes of Spanheim's "Dubia" and the shattered volume of "Cyprian" might well be spared from the Library, in exchange for those or for other books; but that the Welsh manuscript and the old English medical manuscript, although of no importance in an historical view, yet, as manuscripts presented to the Society for preservation, should be retained by the Library.

The report was accepted, the Society considering the manuscripts as very valuable; and the same Committee was requested to ascertain what books may be spared from the Library in exchange for the books mentioned, and report.

Voted, That the Librarian cause the above-named manuscripts to be bound, and be requested to insert whatever he may find material respecting their history.

Voted, That the Librarian and Treasurer be authorized to have the pamphlets in the possession of the Society bound and catalogued.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to pay one-third of the tax paid by the Boston Library Society, provided it is ascertained that this room is included by the assessors in the tax.

Meeting dissolved.

QUARTERLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1832.

At a meeting of the Society, Jan. 26, 1832,—the members present were, Coffin, Coolidge, Davis, Francis, Holmes, Jenks, Lewis, Lowell, Pierce, Savage, and Willard.

The Committee on the subject of a centennial celebration of the birth of Washington, reported,—

That they had requested the Hon. Francis C. Gray, Esq., to deliver a discourse before the Society on that day, and that the appointment was accepted; but that, afterward, the General Court, having resolved to celebrate the day, invited the same gentleman to perform a similar service in their presence, which appointment he accepted, with the concurrence of your Committee. The Committee, therefore, are of the opinion that this arrangement should supersede the intended celebration by the Historical Society, and that the Society should accept an invitation received from the Committee of the Legislature to join with that body in the procession and in attending the literary and religious exercises of the occasion.

Voted, To accept the report of the Committee, and that the same Committee be requested to continue their services in this matter.